



# Neighborhood Services Newsletter



Volume Five

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## Holiday Safety Tips

1. Don't place your tree close to a heater, fire-place, or heat vents.
2. Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit.
3. Never have candles on or near your tree.
4. Add water to your tree daily.
5. Turn your tree & outdoor lights off at night.
6. Recycle your tree after the holidays



## Kiddie Cop Program



Deputy Chief Downing taking some "Junior Police Officer" badges with him to hand out to children in the community

Neighborhood Services Section is now offering the Kiddie Cop Program. OPD Jr Badge stickers are available to Officers citywide to distribute to Oakland youth. NSC Brenda Ivey & NSC Ana Martinez enhanced this program due to the high demand for OPD Jr Police Badge stickers from Officers. They created the concept to install badge dispensers in the line-up rooms at the main Police station & the Eastmont Substation. Officers now have the opportunity to make a "Kid a Cop" everyday! The Kiddie Cop Program also includes Lollipops 4 Kids, the Teddy Bear Patrol, and much more contact NSC Brenda Ivey at 238-3091 email [bivey@oaklandnet.com](mailto:bivey@oaklandnet.com) for more information.



## Asian Advisory Committee on Crime Chinatown Safety Fair 2014



October 11<sup>th</sup> was an exciting day at Lincoln Square Park the Police Armored Truck & Fire Engine were parked inside & outside. Why? It was the Annual Chinatown Safety Fair organized by the Asian Advisory Committee on Crime (AACC). People learned crime prevention tips and how to prepare for a disaster. Over 200 people attended this event including Police Officers. The Oakland Asian Police Officer Association members volunteered their time to teach seniors and provide youth safety tips. Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) and other community organizations & sponsors set up booths to give out important information to citizens. Children at the event not only had a chance to see the Police Canine up close but also were treated to shaved ice and free lunch. Mayor Quan, Police Chief Whent, and other dignitaries joined the crowd for a fun Saturday in the heart of Chinatown.

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Police K-9 on the stage with his handler Officer John Low.



# 9<sup>th</sup> Oakland City Academy Graduation



Chief of Police Sean Whent speaking to the class

On November 3, 2014 the 9<sup>th</sup> Citizens Academy graduated from a six week course where as Oakland citizens they learned how to engage with their City government by providing an interactive forum to learn first-hand how the City of Oakland is structured and managed; what the City's relationship is to Alameda County, the Oakland Unified School District and other public agencies; what services and programs are available through City Agencies; how to access needed services; and



OCA students on the last day of class

how to apply this knowledge by serving as an information resource and advocate for neighborhood associations, non-profit groups and local businesses. On November 18, 2014 the graduating class was presented with a ceremonial resolution during a City Council meeting.

"Thank you so much for your very inspiring classes throughout the Oakland City Academy. I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to attend the Academy and bring the information I've learned back to my Neighborhood Watch group and NCPC. The classes were so informative each week, with a great variety of presenters and materials. I appreciate the time and work that you and your colleagues put into organizing the classes each week and sending us the presentations from each class. Thanks you for your kindness, enthusiasm each week, for the Halloween candy treats, for the graduation presentation, food and refreshments. I feel very grateful to have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful citizens of our amazing city at the class." said Mary Dooley Beat 16X Grand Lake Neighbors NCPC, 9<sup>th</sup> City Academy graduate.

"The City Academy is an important civics lesson on how the City of Oakland operates and what projects are currently in the works." said Marc Gordon, 9<sup>th</sup> City Academy graduate.

"For me taking this class was getting to know Oakland. I have lived here for 16 years and was like a blinded not knowing what happens in this great city. I learned that I can serve my community; I would recommend it to residents so they can learn what happens in our city. When the Spanish class is up and running I know more residents would participate and I would volunteer to help in that class." said Victor Cortes, 9<sup>th</sup> City Academy graduate.

"The class was very informative, presenters very well prepared. Edith keeps the class on track, and we are forced to meet all of our classmates which is a good thing. Thank you Edith for all you do to keep us informed." said Vivian Irving Beat Chair of the 30X NCPC and 9<sup>th</sup> City Academy graduate.

The City Academy is Free and open to any Oakland resident who has an interest in city government, how it serves its residents, and how a community of informed residents can improve the city.

For more information on future classes please contact Edith Guillen, Oakland City Academy Coordinator at [eguillen@oaklandnet.com](mailto:eguillen@oaklandnet.com) or 510-238-7159.



Oakland City Council President Pat Kernighan presenting the 9th City Academy Resolution



## Greater San Antonio Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Officer Appreciation Night



On October 9, 2014, Greater San Antonio (Beat 18 and 19) Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council organized an Officer Appreciation Night for Oakland Police Department Area 3 at Manzanita Recreation Center. The event was the community's way to say thank you to our police officers who work diligently to make neighborhoods safer. NCPC members served dinner to police officers that night. Thank you cards and banner designed by the Children of Manzanita Recreation Center were handed to officers and on display at the "dining hall." Area 3 Police Commander Captain Orozco, Beat 18 PSO Turner, Beat 19 PSO Garcia and many other officers attended. Certificate of Appreciations were also given to the Captain, PSOs and Center Director Marcelina Sanchez.

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Photo: (from left) PSO Garcia, GSA Chair Rosa Montgomery, Captain Orozco, Marcelina Sanchez and PSO Turner.

Greater San Antonio NCPC meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in St. Anthony School Cafeteria, 1500 E. 15th Street.

For more information please contact NSC Sun Kwong Sze at 510-238-7957.



## Youth Citizen Police Academy Graduation



On Monday, November 10, a graduation ceremony was held at the Eastmont Substation for a special Citizens Police Academy class: the first Youth Citizens Police Academy. The six-week class, tailored specifically for Oakland youth (ages 14 – 22), used a unique curriculum developed by Citizens Police Academy Coordinator Ana Martinez in coordination with a focus group of young graduates of the standard Citizens Police Academy. The classes provided information about the Police Explorer and Cadet programs, gang awareness, and crime scene investigation. The Citizens Police Academy is the best way for community members to get a clear understanding to what police work is really all about.

For more information, please contact Ms. Ana Martinez, Citizens Police Academy Coordinator, at [cpacoordinator@oaklandnet.com](mailto:cpacoordinator@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-7683.





## Free Parking Every Saturday Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day



The City of Oakland will offer **free parking every Saturday between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, plus Plaid Friday which is November 28, 2014.**

On the following days, parking at all City-metered spaces throughout Oakland will be free for the time period posted on the meter or kiosk (30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours or 5 hours):

- Friday, November 28
- Saturday, November 29
- Saturday, December 6
- Saturday, December 13
- Saturday, December 20
- Saturday, December 27



The free parking "holidays" apply to both standard meters and the multi-space parking kiosks located in many commercial districts.

To keep the flow of shoppers moving – standard parking rules and time limits will be enforced. If shoppers need more time than a particular meter allows, they will need to move their cars to another available parking space.

In collaboration with Oakland Grown and the Oakland Merchants Leadership Forum, the free parking is a key element of the 2014 "Shop Oakland Grown for the Holidays" campaign that highlights the wide range of shopping options in 40 neighborhood districts citywide while underscoring the importance of keeping shopping dollars local. For more information, please visit [www.oaklandgrown.org](http://www.oaklandgrown.org).



## Toy Drive

It's that time of year again when we share the holiday spirit to put smiles on the faces of Oakland's children in need. The Oaklanders Assistance Center, with help from our friends at the Oakland Fire Department, has organized one of the city's largest toy distribution sites. Last year alone we were able to provide toys to over 8,000 children from low-income families. That's over 16,000 dolls, trucks, books, board games, sports equipment, and gift certificates.

For more information and to make a donation contact Al Lujan 238 7366 or email [alujan@oaklandnet.com](mailto:alujan@oaklandnet.com).



## Area 3 Advisory Committee



August 2013 marked the kickoff of the Area 3 Advisory Committee headed by Captain Rick Orozco. After more than a year of bimonthly meetings with chairpersons of Neighborhood Councils and merchant associations, the committee has accomplished the following:

- Held committee meetings in almost every neighborhood in Area 3
- Toured the OPD Dispatch Center
- Given feedback on the OPD Call Response Strategy
- Met with a Crime Analyst
- Created "Safety Tips: at Home and on the Road" flyer (see next page)

The Area 3 Advisory Committee looks forward to a new year of more networking, touring, and brainstorming.

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# Safety tips: At home and on the road



At home



## LOCKS

Take a close look at all the doors and windows in your home. Solid core doors and frames, with a dead bolt lock and strike plate with 3 inch screws, is most secure. Adding a simple block of wood should be enough to prevent windows from being opened.



## LANDSCAPING

Clear your yard to limit hiding spaces. Trim trees to a 6 foot clearance and trim bushes to a 2 foot clearance. Add thorny or other defensive plants to your landscaping.



## LIGHTING

Add safety lighting and timers. Most home burglaries occur between 8am to 12 noon. However, burglars are increasingly making attempts at night. Motion sensor or other lighting around doors and windows give the appearance of activity inside the home.



## LADDERS

Lock ladders and tools away, so burglars can't use them.



## LABRADORS

Dogs scare away burglars. Consider adopting from Oakland Animal Services or the East Bay SPCA and incorporating your new friend into your home and with your family. Dogs are best at guarding from inside the home. *Review these guidelines before making that decision: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Guidelines-for-Responsible-Pet-Ownership.aspx>.* Don't want, or can't adopt, a dog? Consider a barking alarm!



## KNOW

As best you can, know your surroundings, stay in well-lit area, and walk in the street (if it's safe) with friends or a group. A whistle can be a helpful tool to make yourself more visible. Perpetrators generally don't want attention drawn to them.



## DESCRIBE

If you are victimized, get to a safe place to call 911 (or 777-3211 from a cell phone). As best you can, note a good description of the perpetrator or find witnesses who can.



## TRUST

Trust your gut. If something appears suspicious, it probably is. Get yourself to a safe place and call 911. If the event occurred in the past, you can call the OPD non-emergency line at 777-3333.



On the road



## **ATM Safety Tips: Protect Yourself Against *Shoulder Surfing***

*Shoulder surfing* occurs when someone tries to learn your PIN by standing close to you when you are using an ATM. Then, after you leave, the shoulder surfer will attempt to use the PIN to steal money from your account.

Shoulder surfing can occur at ATMs that do not automatically end transactions with the removal of the account card. *If the transaction is not ended via the screen, the account can still be accessed with the PIN (even without the card).*

### **YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF:**

- If your transaction requires bank slips, fill them out prior to going to the ATM.
- Use ATMs in well-lighted, populated areas. Indoor ATMs at stores or banks tend to be safest.
- Scan the area before using the ATM. If you see a person loitering in the area for no apparent reason, go to another location.
- During a transaction, maintain awareness of your surroundings. Watch for people standing close to you at the ATM.
- If you see anything strange during your transaction, cancel your transaction, take your card, and leave the area.
- Safeguard information (PINs, passwords, etc.) when entering it into the ATM: shield the information from view with your hand or other object.
- At the completion of your transaction, remember to logout or end the transaction and take your ATM card with you (some ATMs do not end the transaction by simply removing the card).

# OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES



# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



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The holiday season is a wonderfully magical time of year. With all the colorful holiday lights, joyful music, sounds of laughter and feelings of good will, it's easy to forget that we may become a victim of a crime. Falling victim to crime can happen to anyone at anytime. While there are no guarantees, that you won't be a victim of crime, there are things you can do to avoid being an easy target. The following suggestions are offered to assist you or your family:

### AT HOME

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave home, even for a few minutes. Make sure all doors close easily and lock securely.
- When leaving home for an extended time, ask a family member or trusted neighbor to watch your house, pick up your newspaper and mail, and accept any deliveries.
- Indoor and outdoor lights and a radio should be left operated by an automatic timer so your home looks and sounds occupied when you are away.
- Home displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows or doors.

### DRIVING

- Do not leave packages or any other items in plain view on the seat of your car.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Assess the surroundings when arriving at any location, and be aware of the surroundings when leaving or approaching your car.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- As much as possible and practical, avoid driving alone at night.
- Make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked while in or out of your car.
- If you must stop while driving at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Make sure your car is in good operating condition and the gas tank is full.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells or cars with tinted windows that prevent you from seeing inside.
- At night, when walking between cars in parking lots, be cautious when passing a vehicle with someone sitting inside or with open sliding side doors of a van.

## SCAMS

- Criminals try to take advantage of your good will during the holiday season. Your trust in others can make you vulnerable to scams.
- Be wary of aggressive solicitors or panhandlers at your front door and **NEVER** invite them into your home.
- Consider posting a “**NO SOLICITING**” sign that is visible to anyone approaching your door. Legitimately licensed solicitors should not bother you. All others should be considered unscrupulous and in violation of the law.
- Do not give or verify personal or financial information about you or anyone else over the phone to anyone you don’t know personally.
- Do not dial any phone number for anyone who telephones wanting to “check your line.”
- Do not give permission to being put on any list for donations or give out your credit card number. If you wish to donate, mail your donation directly to recognized charitable organizations.
- Donate directly by mail to recognized charitable organizations.
- Say NO to anyone representing “charitable organizations” who wants cash and is willing to come to your home to pick up the “donation.”

## HOME PARTY

- Inform your neighbors of your plans for a holiday party and apologize in advance for any inconvenience the party may cause. Invite them to the party.
- If your neighbor cannot attend, be considerate; don’t let the music get too loud and plan to end the party at a reasonable time.
- Before guests arrive, remove items of value from the rooms where the party will be held. Secure your valuables in a locked room. (It may be necessary for you to replace some existing locks or install deadbolt locks on some interior doors.)
- Consider providing only non-alcoholic beverages for your guests.
- If alcohol is to be served, arrange for a designated driver that will not drink any alcohol and will be available to transport those who may need a ride home.
- If you host a party where alcohol is being served and children or persons under 21 years old are present, **DO NOT PERMIT THEM TO CONSUME ANY ALCOHOL.**
- Be wary of “party crashers”. Calmly ask them to leave. If they refuse, do not become aggressive. Remain calm. Call the police non-emergency # immediately at (510) 777-3333.



**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**